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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 7,408,673

: ON PETITION

Chinn et al.

: UNDER 37 CFR 1.183

Issue Date: 08/05/2008

: and

Application No. 10/646993

: ON APPLICATION FOR

Filed: 08/21/2003

: PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT

Attorney Docket No. 07844-599001 / P552

:

This is a decision on the 1) Petition under 37 C.F.R. 1.183, requesting that the Office suspend the rules and consider on the merits an Application for Patent Term Adjustment under 37 C.F.R. 1.705(d) filed more than two months from the date the above-referenced patent issued; and on the 2) Application for Patent Term Adjustment under 37 C.F.R. 1.705(d), requesting reconsideration of the Patent Term Adjustment, both of which were filed on December 22, 2008.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.183 is **dismissed**.

The application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(d) is **dismissed as untimely filed**.

Any request for reconsideration, whether directed to the decision on petition under 37 CFR 1.183 or to the decision on application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(d), must be filed within two months of the mailing date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136 are not permitted. See § 1.181(f).

BACKGROUND

On August 5, 2008, the above-identified application matured into U.S. Patent No. 7,408,673, with a revised patent term adjustment of 987 days. No request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated in the patent was filed within two months of the date the patent issued. Patentee now petitions under 37 C.F.R. § 1.183 to (i) suspend or waive the requirement of 37 C.F.R. § 1.705(d) that a Request for Reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment be filed within two months of the date the patent issued; and (ii) consider the enclosed Request for Reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment. Patentee references the recent decision in Wyeth v. Dudas, No. 07-1492 (D.D.C. Sept. 30, 2008) as the basis for the petition.

**ON PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.183
TO WAIVE THE TWO-MONTH REQUIREMENT OF 37 CFR 1.705(d)**

The above-referenced patent issued on August 5, 2008. A request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated in the patent was not filed until December 22, 2008. Petitioner requests that the Office suspend the rules and consider on the merits the Request for Reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment under 37 C.F.R. 1.705(d) even though it was untimely filed more than two months from the date the patent issued.

The relevant regulation, 37 CFR 1.705(d), provides that:

If there is a revision to the patent term adjustment indicated in the notice of allowance, the patent will indicate the revised patent term adjustment. If the patent indicates or should have indicated a revised patent term adjustment, *any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated in the patent must be filed within two months of the date the patent issued* and must comply with the requirements of paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this section. Any request for reconsideration under this section that raises issues that were raised, or could have been raised, in an application for patent term adjustment under paragraph (b) of this section shall be dismissed as untimely as to those issues. (*emphasis added*).

By the express provisions of 37 CFR 1.705(d), a request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment must be filed within two months of the date the patent issued. It is undisputed that no such request for reconsideration was filed by October 5, 2008, the date two months from the date this patent issued, August 5, 2008. Rather, on December 22, 2008, nearly three months after the issuance of a decision in Wyeth v. Dudas on September 30, 2008, petitioner filed the instant request for waiver of the two-month requirement.

37 CFR 1.183 provides that:

In an extraordinary situation, when justice requires, any requirement of the regulations in this part which is not a requirement of the statutes may be suspended or waived by the Director or the Director's designee, *sua sponte*, or on petition of the interested party, subject to such other requirements as may be imposed. Any petition under this section must be accompanied by the petition fee set forth in § 1.17(f).

35 U.S.C. 154, requires the Office to provide the applicant one opportunity to request reconsideration of any patent term adjustment determination made by the Director, authorizes the Director to establish the procedures for requesting such reconsideration. Those procedures¹ include pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d) setting a two-month period for filing a request for reconsideration of the revised patent term adjustment indicated in the patent.

¹ 35 U.S.C. § 154(b)(3) provides that the USPTO shall: (1) prescribe regulations establishing procedures for the application for and determination of patent term adjustments under 35 U.S.C. § 154(b); (2) make a determination of any patent term adjustment under 35 U.S.C. § 154(b) and transmit a notice of that determination with the notice of allowance under 35 U.S.C. § 151; and (3) provide the applicant one opportunity to request reconsideration of any patent term adjustment determination. Pursuant to the mandate and authority in 35 U.S.C. § 154(b)(3), the USPTO promulgated 37 C.F.R. § 1.705, which provides that: (1) the notice of allowance will include notification of any

Having considered petitioner's arguments, it is concluded that waiver of the two-month requirement is not warranted. The primary basis for requesting waiver set forth by petitioner is "the extraordinary situation presented by the recent decision in Wyeth v. Dudas, No. 07-1492 (D.D.C. Sept. 30, 2008)." Specifically, petitioner states that in Wyeth, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia held that contrary to USPTO practice, a patentee is entitled to Patent Term Adjustment credit for examination delay under 37 CFR 1.702(b) in addition to any examination delay under 37 CFR 1.702(a), to the extent that the two periods of delay "do not occur on the same calendar day or days." Petitioner argues that they could not have filed a Request for Reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment within two months of the date the above-referenced patent issued because the basis for the Request for Reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment is the Wyeth decision, which was entered more than two months after the issuance of their patent. Further, petitioner argues that waiver is warranted as although the request for reconsideration is being filed outside of the two-month period, because of the change in the law, which occurred more than one month after the patent issued, petitioner could not reasonably have timely presented a request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment.

Petitioner has not explained why it could not have filed a Request for Reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment within two months of the date the above-referenced patent issued. Apparently, petitioner's argument is that the basis for the Request for Reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment is the Wyeth decision, which was entered nearly two months after the issuance of their patent.

The fact that any relief ultimately granted in Wyeth would benefit patentee had they timely filed a request for reconsideration does not make the situation extraordinary. Wyeth followed the procedure set forth in 37 CFR 1.705 for requesting reconsideration of the patent term adjustment determination. Then, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(4)(A), Wyeth timely filed a complaint in District Court seeking judicial review of the Office's decision. A Memorandum Opinion and Order, the Wyeth decision of September 30, 2008, directed to the parties involved was issued.

Petitioner chose not to challenge their revised patent term adjustment within the two-month period. Petitioner's argument that they could not have filed a Request for Reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment within two months of the date the above-referenced patent issued because the basis for the Request for Reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment is the Wyeth decision, which was entered nearly two months after the issuance of their patent, is not persuasive.

patent term adjustment under 35 U.S.C. § 154(b)(37 C.F.R. § 1.705(a)); (2) any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated in the notice of allowance (except as provided in 37 C.F.R. § 1.705(d)) must be by way of an application for patent term adjustment filed no later than the payment of the issue fee and accompanied by (inter alia) the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.18(e)(37 C.F.R. § 1.705(b)); and (3) if the patent indicates or should have indicated a revised patent term adjustment, any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated in the patent must be filed within two months of the date the patent issued.

Petitioner could have filed a Request for Reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment as Wyeth did. It is acknowledged that petitioner may have chosen not to file a request for reconsideration based on a conclusion that the Office's interpretation of 35 U.S.C. § 154(b)(2)(A) was correct. Nonetheless, the fact that the District Court has now issued an Opinion contrary to the Office's interpretation does not make the situation extraordinary. This is not unlike any other situation where a patentee (or applicant) challenges a final agency decision and the decision upon judicial review could have had applicability to another patentee (or applicant) had they taken such action. In fact, many patentees may be in the same situation as petitioner with respect to the Wyeth decision. In addition, given that the law only allows 180 days for both the filing of a petition and for the Office's consideration of that petition, petitioner's unexplained more than four-month delay in filing the petition weighs against them.

Petitioner simply fails to articulate how their failure to file a request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment within two months of the issue date of the patent was due to an extraordinary situation. Petitioner cannot rely on Wyeth's actions or the Wyeth decision to establish that their situation was extraordinary.

The contention that a decision is in error is a basis for a timely request for review of the decision but does not justify a delay in seeking review of such decision.

The Office provided notice that petitions under 37 CFR 1.182 and 1.183 or requests for certificate of corrections under 35 USC 354 and 37 CFR 1.323 or 35 U.S.C. 255 and 37 CFR 1.324 are not substitute *fora* to obtain reconsideration of a patent term adjustment determination indicated in a notice of allowance if applicant fails to submit a request for reconsideration within the time period specified in § 1.705(b) or to obtain reconsideration of a patent term adjustment determination indicated in a patent if a patentee fails to submit a request for reconsideration within the time period specified in § 1.705(d). See 69 Fed. Reg. 21704, 21707 (April, 22, 2004).

In view thereof, the petition under 37 CFR 1.183 for waiver of the two-month requirement of 37 CFR 1.705(d) is dismissed.

Accordingly, consideration now turns to the Application for Patent Term Adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(d).

ON REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.705(d)

This is a decision on the "APPLICATION FOR PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.705(d)," filed December 22, 2008. Therein, patentee requests correction of the patent term adjustment (PTA) indicated in the patent to 1384 days.

On August 5, 2008, the above-identified application matured into U.S. Patent No. 7,408,673 with a revised patent term adjustment of 987 days. The instant request for reconsideration was filed more than four months after the issuance of the patent, on December 22, 2008.

No error in the printing of the patent has been shown. The patent term adjustment indicated on the patent reflects the Office's determination of patent term adjustment shown in the PAIR system for this application. 37 CFR 1.705(d) provides the sole avenue before the Office for requesting reconsideration of the Office's determination of patent term adjustment indicated in the patent. Moreover, § 1.705(d) states that "any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated in the patent must be filed within two months of the date the patent issued and must comply with the requirements of paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this section." Since the request was not filed within two months of the issue date of the patent, the request is properly dismissed as untimely filed.

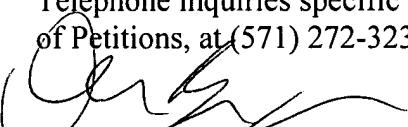
CONCLUSION

It is determined that waiver of the requirement pursuant to 37 CFR 1.183 is not warranted. Accordingly, the request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(d) filed more than two months after the issue date of the patent is dismissed as untimely filed.

Receipt of the fees required for the petition under 37 CFR 1.183 and the application for patent term adjustment is acknowledged.

The application file does not indicate a change of address has been filed in this case, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A change of address should be filed in this case in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address noted on the petition. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application will be mailed solely to the address of record. Applicant is advised that, in patented files: requests for changes of correspondence address, powers of attorney, revocations of powers of attorney, withdrawal of attorney and submissions under 37 CFR 1.501: Designation of, or changes to, a fee address, should be addressed to Mail Stop M Correspondence.

Telephone inquiries specific to this matter should be directed to Derek Woods, Attorney, Office of Petitions, at (571) 272-3232.



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